

November 5, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Father's challenge to "one-parent doctrine" before Supreme Court this week
Mother admitted she's an unfit parent in no-contest plea; dad argues her plea should not give family court jurisdiction over him when he has not been found to be an unfit parent

[Press release](#)

Detroit Free Press: Michigan GOP accused of 'court rigging' with Court of Claims legislation

"Several Judges and other witnesses accused Republican lawmakers of court rigging today for rushing through a bill that would strip the Michigan Court of Claims from the Ingham County Circuit Court and expand its jurisdiction.... Senate Bill 652, passed by the Senate last week on a party line vote with Republicans in the majority, would move the Court of Claims out of Ingham County Circuit Court into the Michigan Court of Appeals."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Mlive.com: Ingham officials say bill to move Court of Claims would 'undoubtedly cause financial harm' to county

[Full story](#)

WKAR News/East Lansing: State Sen. Jones defends push to move Court of Claims out of Ingham County

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Supreme Court upholds 2002 Michigan murder conviction

"The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday unanimously reinstated the second-degree murder conviction of a Troy woman convicted of killing her uncle in August 2000 — reversing a lower court ruling that had ordered a new trial. A Michigan jury convicted Vonlee Nicole Titlow of the second-degree murder of her uncle, Donald Rogers, after she and her aunt Billie Rogers allegedly poured vodka down his throat and smothered him with a pillow."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Lawyer, defendant found guilty in conspiring to get witness to commit perjury in Detroit murder trial

"A defense attorney and his client accused of conspiring to get a witness to commit perjury in a 2012 murder trial were found guilty Monday in Third Circuit Court. A jury convicted attorney David Benjamin Dunn, 44, and his client, Andre Demetrius Collins, 24, after they were accused of conspiring to get a witness to commit perjury on March 19, 2012."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Macomb County searches ways to pay for possible \$61M in building renovations

"... The space utilization study — which [Deputy Executive Mark] Deldin said cost about \$32,500 — includes office renovations at the 13-story old county building, which would house Friend of the Court and Juvenile Court; space for future courtrooms in the Circuit Court, and building out floors in the county administration building currently used for storage."

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Grand Rapids man held in contempt for wearing hat

"Kent County judge has ordered a man to pay \$100 or spend 10 days in jail for wearing a hat in court.... When [Kent County Circuit Judge James Robert Redford] announced the hearing was adjourned, [Ryan] Lasenby started to place a baseball cap on his head. Redford reminded him hats aren't allowed in the courtroom."

[Full story](#)

Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit News and other media outlets.

Also see:

Grand Rapids Press: Man's hat trick in Grand Rapids court brings contempt charge: \$100 fine or jail is next

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Perjury charges in Amanda Lankey homicide case move forward

"Perjury charges against Candace Wallis-Baumgartner, the sister of a person-of-interest in the 2004 killing of 13-year-old Amanda Lankey, are now expected to move forward. The state Supreme Court last week declined to hear an appeal from Wallis-Baumgartner in the perjury charges filed against her in August 2012."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Adoption event to highlight local kids in need of homes

"A group of local kids waiting for adoption have varied personalities from creative to quirky to intelligent, but they all have one thing in common: They're yearning for permanent homes. On Thursday, prospective parents will have the opportunity to learn more about children who need homes during D.A. Blodgett-St. John's Images of Adoption event that corresponds with National Adoption Month."

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan challenge to EPA greenhouse regulations to be heard by U.S. Supreme Court

"The EPA says greenhouse gases are pollution. The Supreme Court has agreed. But Michigan sued the EPA saying you can't regulate that pollution from smokestack industries because it would hurt the economy."

[Full story](#)

The Morning Sun: Tribal judge strips four, and 40 descendants, of membership

"Four members of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, two elders and two who are deceased, will be removed from membership rolls under a decision issued by Tribal Judge Patrick Shannon on Monday. With them, membership will also be stripped from 40 descendants, many of whom filled the Tribal courtroom last week as their attorney attempted a last-ditch effort to preserve their standing against a Tribal move to disenroll."

[Full story](#)

NPR: From Social Welfare Groups, A River Of Political Influence

"... Back in 2005, an energy company wanted to pump treated — but still polluted — water into the Au Sable watershed. When the state approved the plan, [Bruce] Pregler says the Anglers "looked at this and said, 'Why are you transferring contaminated water from one watershed to a clean, pure water?' " And they sued. The case wound up at the Michigan State Supreme Court, where, as Pregler says, it took some real twists. The first twist: One justice abruptly resigned, and Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm appointed a new one. Incoming Justice Alton Davis tipped the court's balance from conservative to liberal, and he sympathized with the Anglers' arguments."

[Full story](#)